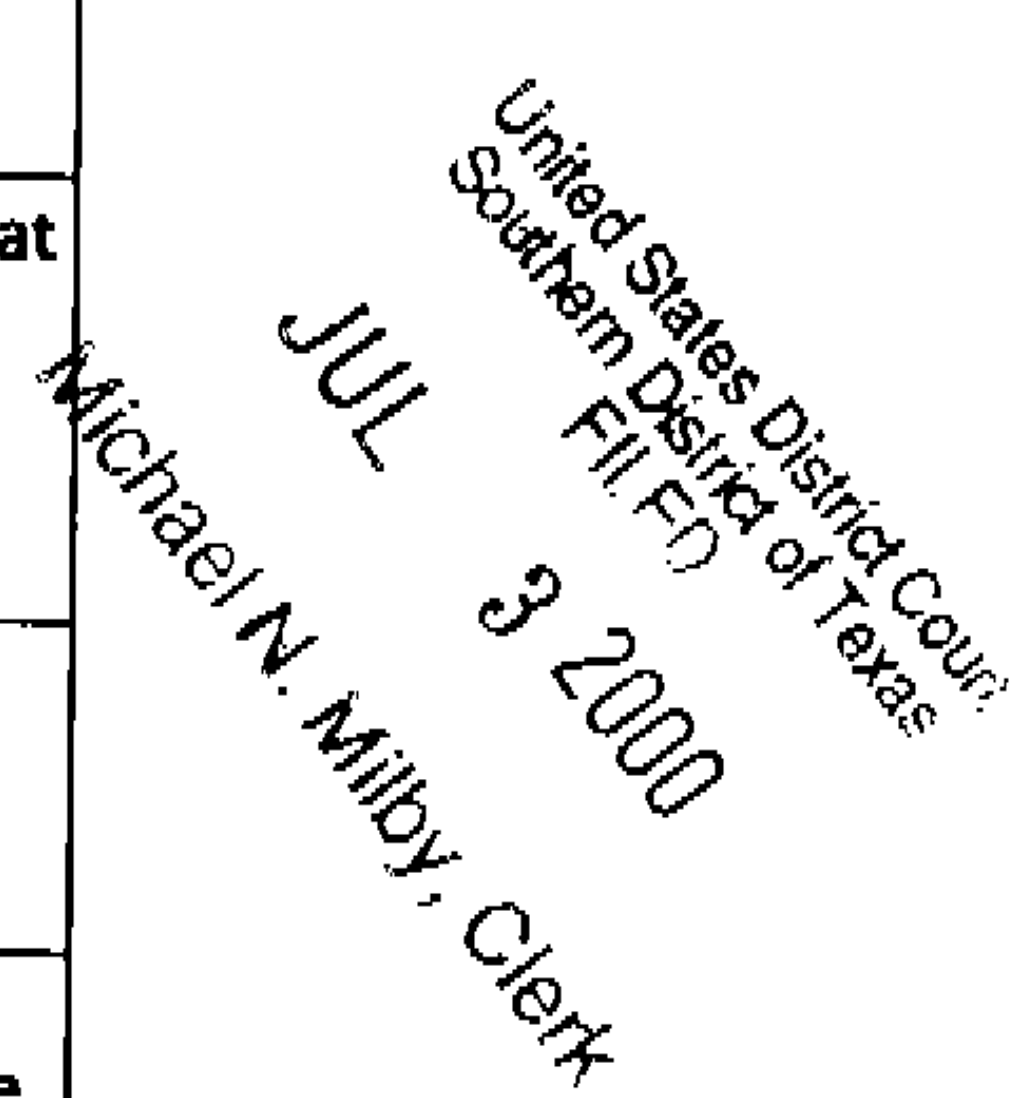



United States Bankruptcy Court  
61288, Houston TX 77208SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS P.O.Box  
(Houston Division)

## PROOF OF CLAIM

Name of Debtors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Stage Stores, Inc., a Delaware corporation</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Specialty Retailers, Inc., a Texas corporation</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Specialty Retailers, Inc. (NV), a Nevada corporation</b>  <small>*place an "x" beside the name of the Debtor you are filing a claim against</small>		Case Number 00-35078-H2-11 00-35079-H2-11 00-35080-H2-11		Creditor ID#: 788-61414   <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	
Name of Creditor (The person or other entity to whom the debtor owes money or property):  Times Newspapers		<input type="checkbox"/> Check box if you are aware that anyone else has filed a proof of claim relating to your claim. Attach copy of statement giving particulars.			
Name and address where notices should be sent: *****AUTO**3-DIGIT 615 Times Newspapers PO Box 9426 Peoria IL 61612-9426  		<input type="checkbox"/> Check box if you have never received any notices from the bankruptcy court in this case			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Check box if the address differs from the address on the envelope sent to you by the court.			
Account or other number by which creditor identifies debtor:		Check here <input type="checkbox"/> replaces if this claim <input type="checkbox"/> amends a previously filed claim, dated: _____			
<b>1. Basis for Claim</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Goods sold <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Services performed <input type="checkbox"/> Money loaned <input type="checkbox"/> Personal injury/wrongful death <input type="checkbox"/> Taxes <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Retiree benefits as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 1114(a) <input type="checkbox"/> Wages, salaries, and compensation (Fill out below) Your SS#: _____ - _____ - _____ Unpaid compensation for services performed from _____ (date) to _____ (date)			
<b>2. Date debt was incurred:</b> <u>May, 2000</u>		<b>3. If court judgment, date obtained:</b>			
<b>4. Total Amount of Claim at Time Case Filed:</b> \$ <u>6,489.99</u> If all or part of your claim is secured or entitled to priority, also complete Item 5 or 6 below. <input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if claim includes interest or other charges in addition to the principal amount of the claim. Attach itemized statement of all interest or additional charges.					
<b>5. Secured Claim.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if your claim is secured by collateral (including a right of setoff).  Brief Description of Collateral: <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate <input type="checkbox"/> Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> Other All personal and intangible property of Debtor's Estate  Value of Collateral: \$ _____  Amount of arrearage and other charges at time case filed included in secured claim, if any \$ _____			<b>6. Unsecured Priority Claim.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if you have an unsecured priority claim Amount entitled to priority \$ _____ Specify the priority of the claim: <input type="checkbox"/> Wages, salaries, or commissions (up to \$4,300),* earned within 90 days before filing of the bankruptcy petition or cessation of the debtor's business, whichever is earlier - 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(3) <input type="checkbox"/> Contributions to an employee benefit plan - 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(4). <input type="checkbox"/> Up to \$1,950* of deposits toward purchase, lease, or rental of property or services for personal, family, or household use - 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(6). <input type="checkbox"/> Alimony, maintenance, or support owed to a spouse, former spouse, or child - 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(7). <input type="checkbox"/> Taxes or penalties owed to governmental units - 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(8). <input type="checkbox"/> Other - Specify applicable paragraph of 11 U.S.C. § 507(a-____). <small>*Amounts are subject to adjustment on 4/1/98 and every 3 years thereafter with respect to cases commenced on or after the date of adjustment.</small>		
<b>7. Credits:</b> The amount of all payments on this claim has been credited and deducted for the purpose of making this proof of claim.			This Space Is for Court Use Only		
<b>8. Supporting Documents:</b> Attach copies of supporting documents, such as promissory notes, purchase orders, invoices, itemized statements of running accounts, contracts, court judgments, mortgages, security agreements, and evidence of perfection of lien. DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS. If the documents are not available, explain. If the documents are voluminous, attach a summary.			929		
<b>9. Date-Stamped Copy:</b> To receive an acknowledgment of the filing of your claim, enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope and copy of this proof of claim.			Date: <u>6-28-00</u>		
Sign and print the name and title, if any, of the creditor or other person authorized to file this claim (attach copy of power of attorney, if any): <u>Patsy Geske, Assistant to the President</u>			Date: <u>6-28-00</u>		
Penalty for presenting fraudulent claim: Fine of up to \$500,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152 and 3571.					



## EXPLANATIONS

FORM B9F(ALT.) (9/97)

Filing of Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Case	A bankruptcy case under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code (title 11, United States Code) has been filed in this court by or against the debtors listed on the front side, and an order for relief has been entered. Chapter 11 allows a debtor to reorganize or liquidate pursuant to a plan. A plan is not effective unless confirmed by the court. You may be sent a copy of the plan and a disclosure statement telling you about the plan, and you might have the opportunity to vote on the plan. You will be sent notice of the date of the confirmation hearing, and you may object to confirmation of the plan and attend the confirmation hearing. Unless a trustee is serving, the debtor will remain in possession of the debtor's property and may continue to operate any business.
Creditors May Not Take Certain Actions	Prohibited collection actions are listed in Bankruptcy Code § 362. Common examples of prohibited actions include contacting the debtor by telephone, mail or otherwise to demand repayment; taking actions to collect money or obtain property from the debtor; repossessing the debtor's property; starting or continuing lawsuits or foreclosures.
Meeting of Creditors	A meeting of creditors is scheduled for the date, time and location listed on the front side. <i>The debtor's representative must be present at the meeting to be questioned under oath by the trustee and by creditors.</i> Creditors are welcome to attend, but are not required to do so. The meeting may be continued and concluded at a later date without further notice.
Claims	A Proof of Claim is a signed statement describing a creditor's claim. If a Proof of Claim form is not included with this notice, you can obtain one at any bankruptcy clerk's office. You may look at the schedules that have been or will be filed at the bankruptcy clerk's office. If your claim is scheduled and is <i>not</i> listed as disputed, contingent, or unliquidated, it will be allowed in the amount scheduled unless you file a Proof of Claim or you are sent further notice about the claim. If your claim is not listed at all <i>or</i> if your claim is listed as disputed, contingent, or unliquidated, then you must file a Proof of Claim by the "Deadline to File a Proof of Claim" listed on the front side, and you must file a separate Proof of Claim in the bankruptcy case of each debtor against whom you have a claim, or you might not be paid any money on your claim against the debtor in the bankruptcy case.
Discharge of Debts	Confirming of a chapter 11 plan may result in a discharge of debts, which may include all or part of your debt. See Bankruptcy Code § 1141(d). A discharge means that you may never try to collect the debt from the debtor, except as provided in the plan.
Bankruptcy Clerk's Office	Any paper that you file in this bankruptcy case should be filed at the bankruptcy clerk's office at the address listed on the front side. You may inspect all papers filed, including the list of the debtor's property and debts, at the bankruptcy clerk's office.
Legal Advice	The staff of the bankruptcy clerk's office cannot give legal advice. You may want to consult an attorney
—Refer To Other Side For Important Deadlines and Notices—	

# TIMESNEWSPAPERS

A Community Service Media Company

Patsy Geske, Assistant to the President

June 28, 2000

Clerk, U.S. Bankruptcy Court  
P.O. Box 61288  
Houston, TX 77208

Dear Clerk:

Enclosed is the original and one copy of the Proof of Claim form for Bankruptcy Case No. 00-35078-H2-11. I am also enclosing an extra copy of the Claim form for you to file-stamp and return to me in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope at your earliest possible convenience. If you have any questions, please call me at (309) 692-6600 ext. 261.



Patsy Geske  
Assistant to the President

Enclosures

PO Box 9426 ■ Peoria IL 61612-9426 ■ 309.692.6600 EXT. 261 ■ FAX 309.690.3399

Reach 150,000+ Adults in the Area's Best Markets

PEORIA TIMES-OBSERVER, CHILLICOTHE TIMES-BULLETIN, ILLINOIS VALLEY TIMES-ADVERTISER, MORTON TIMES-NEWS  
EAST PEORIA TIMES-COURIER, TAZEWELL TIMES-EXTRA, WASHINGTON TIMES-REPORTER, EL PASO TIMES-JOURNAL

Affiliated with Val-Pak







## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

Southern District of Texas

## Notice of Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Case, Meeting of Creditors, & Deadlines

A chapter 11 bankruptcy case concerning each of the debtor corporations listed below was filed on June 1, 2000

You may be a creditor of one or more of the debtor(s). **This notice lists important deadlines.** You may want to consult an attorney to protect your rights. All documents filed in the cases may be inspected at the bankruptcy clerk's office at the address listed below.

NOTE: The staff of the bankruptcy clerk's office cannot give legal advice.

### See Reverse Side For Important Explanations.

Debtor (name(s), case numbers and address):

Stage Stores, Inc., a Delaware corp.; Case No. 00-35078-H2-11  
Specialty Retailers, Inc., a Texas corp.; Case No. 00-35079-H2-11  
Specialty Retailers, Inc. (NV), a Dallas corp.; Case No. 00-35080-H2-11  
10210 Main Street  
Houston, TX 77025-5229  
**Toll Free Number: 1-800-804-2013 (for case information)**

Jointly Administered Under  
Case Number 00-35078-H2-11

Taxpayer ID Nos:

76-0407711 (Stage Stores, Inc.)  
74-0821900 (Specialty Retailers, Inc.)  
91-1826900 (Specialty Retailers, Inc. (NV))

Attorney for Debtors (name and address):

Andrew E. Jillson, Esq.  
Lynnette R. Warman, Esq.  
Jenkins & Gilchrist, a Professional corporation  
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 3200  
Dallas, TX 75202-2799

Attorneys for Debtors Telephone Number:

Toll Free 1-877-559-9672

**Information may also be obtained from the following website:**

Website address: [www.stagestoresbankruptcy.com](http://www.stagestoresbankruptcy.com)

### Meeting of Creditors

Date: 7 / 11 / 00 Time: 2:00 ( ) A.M.  
( X ) P.M.

Location: U.S. Courthouse  
Jury Assembly Room  
515 Rusk, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002

### Deadlines to File a Proof of Claim

Proofs of Claim must be *received* by the bankruptcy clerk's office by the following deadline:

For all creditors (except a governmental unit): 10/9/00

For a governmental unit: 11/28/00

**Mail claim to: U.S. Bankruptcy Court  
P.O. Box 61288  
Houston, TX 77208**

### Creditors May Not Take Certain Actions:

The filing of the bankruptcy case automatically stays certain collection and other actions against the debtor and the debtor's property. If you attempt to collect a debt or take other action in violation of the Bankruptcy Code, you may be penalized.

**Address of the Bankruptcy Clerk's Office:**

515 Rusk Avenue  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002  
Telephone number: 713/250-5115

**For the Court:**

Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court:

Michael N. Milby, Clerk

Hours Open: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Date: